

# Shiv sings in newfound confidence on day one

With the confidence of a title win last month, Shiv Kapur sinks in five birdies in bogey free round

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**T**he monkey is off his back and Shiv Kapur surely showed signs of it as he marched to end the opening day of The Gujarat Kensville Challenge at tied second with Andrew McArthur of Scotland.

The 30-year-old started his career as one to carry forward the legacy of the likes of Jeev Milkha Singh, Arjun Atwal and Jyoti Randhawa. But call it the pressure or his inability to finish it off, for Shiv, it was a story of struggle.

However, when he ended his seven-year title drought by fending off Daniel Chopra to win the Shubhkamna Champions Golf in December last year, it appeared Shiv had found his second wind.

"It is good to win the tournament. I was able to get the monkey off the back," he said after his bogey free round where he sunk five birdies. "I ended the last season on a good note and coming into the new season I have all the positive thoughts," Shiv said,



**Shiv Kapur is tied second after the end of the first round at Kensville Golf and Country Club on Thursday**

adding, "I hope I can carry on that."

Hope is what Shiv will need the most as he had been through similar situations before too. The good thing is that the Delhi-pro is aware of the past. "I have been in contention for a couple of times before also," he said.

But it was a different Shiv on Thursday. There is an air of confidence—just the right amount. And the change is there for all to see as playing with the

## LEADERBOARD

- ▶ Agustin Domingo 6-under 66
- ▶ Shiv Kapur and Andrew McArthur 5-under 67
- ▶ Wallace Booth, Jacob Glennemo and Victor Riu 4-under 68

likes of Major winner Rich Beem and another highly rated golfer and last year's runner-up Rahil Gangjee.

While Beem and Gangjee struggled, Shiv held on to his own with a birdie on the sixth hole in a quieter front nine. He sizzled in the back nine with a birdie in the par-4 10th hole. Shiv made it four-under with two back-to-back birdies in the 14th and 15th holes before summing it up with another birdie at the 17th hole.

Talking about his game, Shiv said, "I played a good solid bogey free golf and gave myself a lot of chances. But I did not hole as many as I should have despite rolling the ball well. But five-under to start with, I have no complaints," he added.